

David Cullinane (T.D.)  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Dublin 2.

24th March 2021

**PQ 12047/21 - To ask the Minister for Health the policy for administering the Covid-19 vaccine to persons who are homebound and cannot attend a clinic; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -David Cullinane**

Deputy Cullinane,

Thank you for your correspondence in relation to housebound patients and I wish to apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The HSE is fully committed to ensuring all over 70's patients gain access to the COVID-19 vaccine as required. Existing "Community Call" transport arrangements will continue to ensure members of the over 70's cohort (commencing with the > 85 sub-cohort) who require support can attend their GP practice to receive the vaccine when scheduled.

There are a small number of older people who, due to illness or frailty, are housebound and cannot avail of the existing 'community call' arrangements to attend the GP practice. The HSE has put in place a standardised approach to ensure that arrangements are in place to ensure that those patients over 70 and are housebound receive the vaccine.

The HSE on the 4th March issued correspondence to GPs asking them to identify those who are housebound so that arrangements can be made in conjunction with the National Ambulance Service for these people to be vaccinated at home. This programme of home vaccination will be delivered by HSE National Ambulance Service (NAS) teams. The programme of home vaccinations for eligible people over 70 years commenced on Saturday March 13th and will continue through the coming weeks.

NAS will be contacting all referred individuals over the coming weeks to arrange for their home vaccination. The HSE Home Vaccination Service will be provided on a 7 day basis.

I trust that the information provided above is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



---

**Geraldine Crowley,  
Assistant National Director,  
Primary Care Strategy and Planning**

